

Office of Communications

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tuesday, March 16, 2004 CONTACT: Dionne C. Williams (703) 248-5101

Test Results for Falls Church City and Fairfax County Schools Served by Falls Church City Water Utility

FALLS CHURCH, VA. – The City received its 222 water samples taken from its four public schools, and from those Fairfax County public schools and private schools served by the City's water utility. Only one percent of the samples taken resulted in lead levels above the recommended 20 parts per billion Environmental Protection Agency compliance level required when testing a school system's water supply for lead.

Levels above the recommended EPA compliance level were found at Fairfax County's Freedom Hill Elementary School, located at 1945 Lord Fairfax Drive, and at the J.E.B. Stuart High School located at 3301 Peace Valley Lane.

At the Freedom Hill Elementary School, lead levels taken at a nurses station's sink were reported at 87 parts per billion. At the J.E.B. Stuart High School, lead levels taken at a kitchen sink were reported at 24 parts per billion. All of the samples taken from drinking fountains at these schools reported lead levels well below the EPA compliance level.

The City is taking additional water samples from every water fountain and sink used for drinking located in both of these schools to confirm its initial results. The results from the additional samples taken should be available next week.

The City is still passing out water sample kits to the 50 additional residential water customers to take samples more samples, and will continue to work closely with Fairfax County Public Schools to confirm these initial results and determine next steps should the results reveal lead levels above the EPA's compliance level through a second round of testing.

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